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JAPANESE BEETLE QUARANTINE REVISION

A radio talk by Dr. S. B. Fracker, Plant Quarantine & Control Administration, delivered through a network of 45 associate NBC stations, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, December 15, 1931.

The kinds of farm products quarantined in the northeastern States will be much less numerous next summer than they have been during the last few years. This change is brought about by a revision of the Japanese beetle quarantine regulations announced by the Secretary of Agriculture today.

The products remaining under restriction in the new revision in addition to nursery stock and soil are limited to green corn on the cob, beans in the pod, bananas, apples, peaches, and berries. Peaches and apples in containers holding less than 15 lbs. will, however, no longer need to be certified. Heretofore all kinds of vegetables and fruits have been under restriction except a few specified classes.

Mr. Lee A. Strong, Chief of the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration, in commenting on the revision, said today that one reason for this change is that the regulated areas are now so large and the boundaries so distant from the centers of heavy Japanese beetle infestation around Philadelphia and in central New Jersey that the active beetles which infest such products have a tendency to escape from the shipments before the boundaries of the infested areas are reached. The farm products remaining under restriction are primarily those which are subject to severe infestation at the point of production, as in the case of corn and beans, or strongly attract the beetles into cars which are later closed and moved long distances as in the case of wholesale banana shipments.

The farm products restrictions so far as they remain in effect will be supplemented from time to time by the inspection of freight and other shipments at or near the boundaries of the regulated areas, and when infestation is found, measures to eliminate it will be required.

Under the same revision, the distinction between generally infested and lightly infested areas is discontinued and a considerable portion of the districts previously known as lightly infested, have been released. On the other hand, several additions to the regulated areas have also been made. These include part of southern Delaware and that part of the Eastern Shore of Maryland which adjoins it, also considerable sections of eastern New York, and parts of central and northern Pennsylvania.

As nursery stock from inside the regulated areas might carry the beetle grubs in soil for long distances, its shipment is under close Federal supervision and such stock is not certified until it has complied with such requirements as are necessary in the judgment of the Department to be sure that it is entirely free from infestation.

